



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 62

February Session, 2006

Substitute House Bill No. 5289

House of Representatives, March 21, 2006

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. WALLACE of the 109th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING TAX COLLECTOR CERTIFICATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 12-130a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

3 (a) There shall be established [within the Office of Policy and
4 Management] a committee for the purpose of developing and
5 maintaining a program and procedures for the training, examination
6 and certification of tax collection personnel, appointed by the Secretary
7 of the Office of Policy and Management and consisting of seven
8 members, six of whom shall be voting members who shall serve
9 without pay and shall be appointed initially as follows: Two members
10 for two-year terms; two members for four-year terms; and two
11 members for six-year terms. At least one member shall be from a
12 municipality with a population of more than fifty thousand, and at
13 least one member shall be from a municipality with a population
14 under ten thousand. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and

15 Management shall thereafter appoint two members every two years
16 for six-year terms. The seventh member shall be an employee of the
17 Office of Policy and Management [, who shall be knowledgeable
18 regarding Connecticut property tax collection practices and] who shall
19 serve as a nonvoting member of the committee. The six voting
20 members of the committee shall have demonstrated competence in tax
21 collection practices in Connecticut. Said committee shall elect its own
22 chairman and [adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,]
23 recommend standards to said secretary for the training, fees and
24 examination of tax collection personnel, including standards for the
25 certification and recertification of tax collectors. Such [regulations]
26 recommended standards may include requirements for any type of
27 training or experience, or combination thereof, the committee deems
28 appropriate. The secretary shall review the recommended standards
29 and shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
30 implementing any of such standards the secretary approves.

31 (b) Any person may participate in training courses on tax collection
32 practices prescribed by said committee and upon completing such
33 training courses and successfully completing any examination
34 prescribed by said committee, shall be recommended to the Secretary
35 of the Office of Policy and Management as a candidate for certification
36 as a certified Connecticut municipal collector. The Secretary of the
37 Office of Policy and Management shall certify any qualified candidate
38 recommended by said committee as a certified Connecticut municipal
39 collector and may [rescind] revoke, suspend or deny such certification
40 or recertification for sufficient cause as said secretary may determine.
41 Said secretary may certify a candidate who has not completed such
42 training courses provided such candidate has experience in tax
43 collection practices in Connecticut to such extent, as determined by
44 said secretary, to make it unnecessary to complete such training
45 courses, and provided further such candidate shall be required to
46 successfully complete any examination prescribed by said committee.
47 Such certification shall be valid for five years from the date of issuance
48 or until regulations are adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
49 section, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	12-130a
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

At the end of Subsec. (b) "whichever is later" was added for clarity.

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

The Out Years

There is no fiscal impact in the out years.

OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 5289***AN ACT CONCERNING TAX COLLECTOR CERTIFICATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the actions the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary can take with respect to state-certified tax collectors. Current law allows him only to rescind a certification for sufficient cause as he determines. The bill allows him also to revoke, suspend, or deny a certification or recertification.

The bill makes changes regarding the committee that recommends tax collectors for certification and its process for developing certification standards. It changes a criterion for appointing one of the committee's seven members. By law, the secretary must appoint six voting members and one non-voting member, who must be an OPM employee knowledgeable about property tax collection. The bill drops the requirement that the OPM employee be knowledgeable about tax collection.

Current law requires the committee to adopt regulations governing training and examining tax collectors and the fees it charges for doing so. It must also recommend tax collectors to the secretary for certification, which is good for five years. The bill requires the committee to propose training, examination, and fee standards to the secretary, who adopts implementing regulations if he approves them. Certifications issued after July 1, 2006 are good for five years or until the secretary adopt regulations, whichever is later.

Lastly, the bill removes the committee from OPM administration.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 1 (03/08/2006)